Davenport Historical Society Inc.
Polk County, Florida

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Davenporthistory.org

News from the Port

Davenport Historical Society, Inc. Meetings are Open to the Public

Volume 4, Issue 3 | Summer Quarterly 2021

Letter from the Editor

By HRR

It's almost summer officially, but of course summer has been with us for awhile. In Judy's heritage trail, this issue she mentions the streets and avenues in Davenport and how they were named. Maybe this summer would be a good time to travel the heritage trail and find out more about where you live or visit in out area. Visit our website: www.davenporthistory.org and select gallery and see videos of Davenport and NE Polk County that you might enjoy in your air conditioned vehicle. The Polk County History Center website also has several videos of all around the county, as does the visit central Florida website. There is so much to do and see without ever leaving the county and much of it is free. Learn more about all Polk County has to offer,

slow down and enjoy the journey.

Even Davenport's street names have history. By Gosh Blvd. has a tale of its own. To find out more be sure to follow the Heritage Trail by Judith Thompson. Page 2. Judith Thompson is author to several books about Davenport and N.E. Polk County.

Vice President's Notes
By: Deborah Burress

This is usually the column we save for Mrs. Burress, but she has a new home and has left a very meaningful gift to DHS. We would like to share in the coming years her legacy which will be a financial gift to a graduating senior in our area in the form of a scholarship in memory of her husband, Fred Burress. Both the Burresses know the importance of educating our youth and therefore this scholarship will be awarded to a senior that shows outstanding interest in the history of the area.
Our website will have more information in early 2022 regarding how to apply. Www.davenporthistory.org

President's Message
By: Kathy B. Linder

Hello Members and Friends,

The year is moving through with lots of different opportunities being addressed. Lots of new memberships and more to come. Keep up the good work and always enjoy each new day.

Kathy B. Linder, President & Treasurer

Birdhouse at Historic McKnight Home on Lemon Street

Inside this Issue:

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If you missed Judith Thompson's first book you have another opportunity to read her second edition. For Sale at Linda's Hair Salon

Following the Heritage Trail — By Judith Torgersen Thompson

"Road to Where?"

By Gosh! Why is there a road in Davenport called, By Gosh? And some names are hard to pronounce. Can anyone explain why the roads have their names?

For the residents who have lived in Davenport for years, the road names are simple. If you are new to the area, the following information may prove to be helpful.

When Davenport was first laid out the streets running East-West were named for trees and they were all called streets. The north-south roads were named Indian names and referred to as avenues. The four roads that outlined the boundary of Davenport were called boulevards-North Blvd., etc. The dividing line for the house numbers begin at the intersection of Bay Street and Suwannee Ave. A letter is added to the address to indicate which quadrant (N, S, E, W).

That's too fast for a chicken Crossing!!

Later, when a road was added, it was given a name that referred to a person, business, or geographical feature. By Gosh, was named for Kenny Gill, an employee who worked for the city for 39 years and had a habit of using that expression.

Bay Street is the street at the stop light; however, it is named Bay Street only on the east side of highway 17-92. On the west side of highway 17-92 the name was changed to Davenport Boulevard and is also County Road 547. County road 547 makes a sharp turn just before the railroad tracks and continues north to Loughman. The Davenport School of the Arts and the new Davenport High School, that is under construction are located on this route, Bargain Barn Road was named for the business that was located there., Williams Street was named for Marguerite Williams who worked as the city clerk for 63 years. Pink Apartment Road was named because the apartment at the end of the road was painted pink. Olsen Road was named for Arthur Olsen who lived there. His father and mother Herlof and Ellen, came to Davenport from Norway. Cro Martie Road should be Cromartie for the pioneer family who came in 1914.

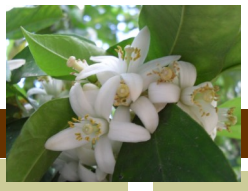
CITRUS LABEL TOUR
Polk County

Citrus Label Driving Tour. Visit our website wwwdavenporthistory.com select logo for map of labels around the county.

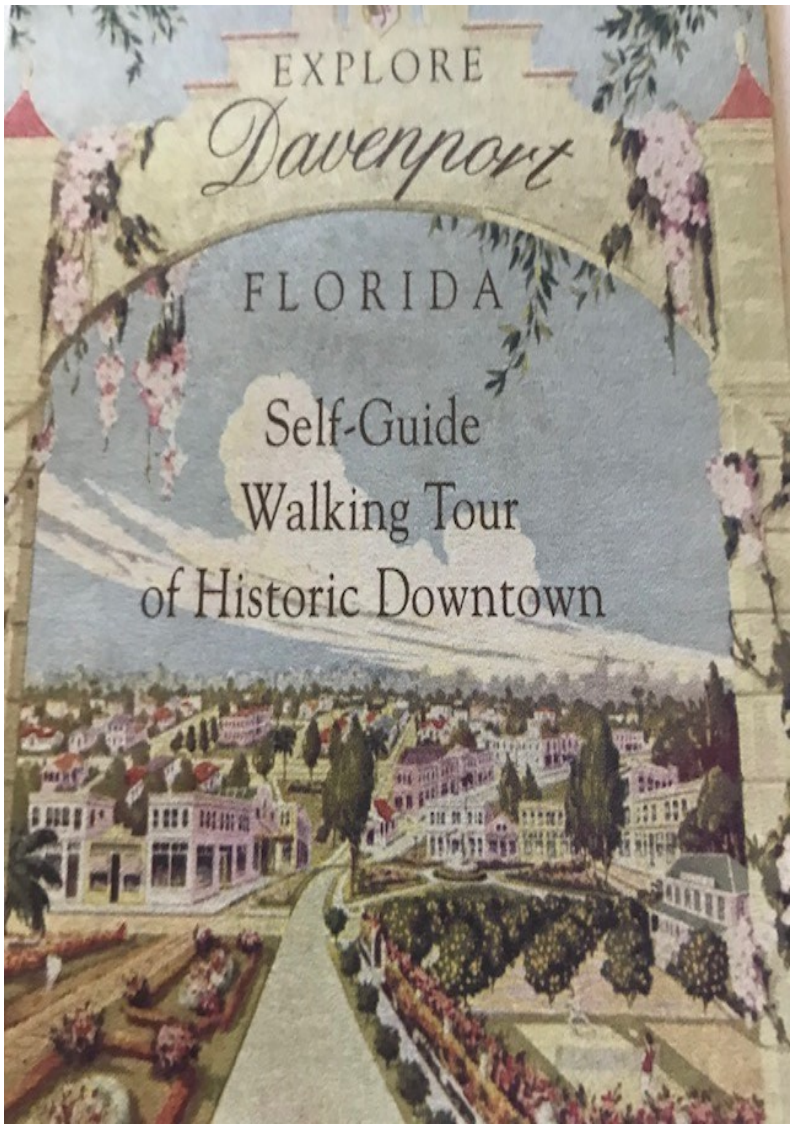
Some roads don't seem to make sense-for example, Forest Lake Drive, since there is neither a forest nor a lake. When you have a chance to look at some maps from the early years you will see that there was a forest called Evergreen Forest, and a lake with 3 different names: Lake Henry, Lake Mary, and Alligator Lake. The same applies to Park Drive. From an older document, a park was planned for that location, but it seems that was never created.

I hope this helps when you need to find an address,. As far as road names with the new subdivisions, I guess GPS is the way to go.

Top photo: The Olsen's with their wagon and the McBurny family and the Olsens whom Olsen Road was named after.
Bottom photo: Scandinavian families including Torgersens who came around 1911.
Think your air conditioned vehicle makes for better traveling than the wagon.



Welcome to Davenport



If you prefer walking to driving one of Davenport's many streets and avenues, pick up one of our self-guided walking tour maps of the historic district. When it is cooler in the fall contact our Walking tour docent Billie Sedore for a lovely tour with description and discussion of the area.
Walking Tour map may be picked up at Linda's Hair Care in the Mart.
Corner of Bay Street and 17-92 at the stop light.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERES

Member Invitation

Davenport HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Membership Invitation:
The Davenport Historical Society, Inc. purpose is to preserve the city's history and share this heritage by contributing to the records of the state of Florida and the United States of America in an effort that will embrace our past while working toward a brighter future for all of Davenport's citizens.
Please join us. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 pm at different historic locations., except June, July & August unless otherwise stated. For location email:
jthompson.dhs@gmail.com

___1. Become a member of DHS
$10.00 Individual Membership
18.00 Family Membership
35.00 Business Membership
75.00 Corporate Membership
$100.00 Lifetime Individual Membership
___2. Share artifacts or personal stories with DHS and Museum
___3. Volunteer time to the DHS & Museum (select interest)

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

EMAIL_____

PHONE_____**CELL**_____

Please complete & mail to:
Davenport Historical Society, Inc.
% Kathy Linder P.O. Box 774
Davenport, FL 33836
DHS is a 501 c (3) non profit organization

There have been many more projects , events and partners from 2010 to 2020 that we have not had room to share, so please join us for future plans when we are allowed to gather again. Please email Judy if you are interested. We need You and Your ideas. Contact info on page 4.

Meetings:
Second Monday
Each month at
6:30pm
Davenport
Commission
Chamber

Quarterly Meetings with Special Programs.

No Meetings:
June, July, August

Websites:

Davenporthistory.org

Mydavenport.org

Polkhistorycenter.org

des.polkschoolsfl.com

davenporthigh.polkschoolsfl.com

Visitcentralfl.org

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DAVENPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

P.O. BOX 774

DAVENPORT, FL 33836

TO:

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Future Plans for Davenport Historical Society include : Mobile historic displays, FL History to accommodate 4th grade school field trips, On-line research center computers for public use, Information station with brochures and flyers related to Davenport and NE Polk, Docent led tours, Field Trips to historic sites and other heritage offerings.

New Facebook Page: davenport, fl historical society-Facebook

DHS meetings will resume in September 2021
Time and Location TBA

TOM FELLOWS COMMUNITY CENTER UNDER CONSTRUCTION. OPENING FALL 2021
See More:
mydavenport.org

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS OF SUPPORT . WE GREATLY APPRECIATE ALL YOUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE PARTNERING OF DHS WITH THE CITY OF DAVENPORT TO HAVE A HOME OF OUR OWN.